

ED ATKINS AND STEVEN ZULTANSKI

*SORCERER*

14 SEPTEMBER – 5 NOVEMBER 2022

EDEN EDEN  
Bülowstrasse 74  
10783 Berlin  
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At Eden Eden, Ed Atkins and Steven Zultanski present a feature-length film adaptation of their play, *Sorcerer*. The film is accompanied by a motorised bed that faintly writhes.

*Sorcerer* is a film about the pleasures of being with others and of being alone. Three friends hang out and share a long and unremarkable conversation about getting dressed, headaches, ticks, compression fantasies, surgery, and their aspirations, among other things. When two of the friends go home for the night, the remaining one watches TV, dances, and takes apart their face in front of a giant mirror.

The characters find contentment in each other's company, conversing in the placid, eerie rhythms of a sitcom in which conflict never arises. Unease is mechanically exported to the set and to the camera: the stage is demarcated by unnecessarily hot, working radiators; the sound is relentlessly hissy, the result of dozens of microphones hidden in the furniture and under the floor; and many of the shots are claustrophobically tight, cutting off attention to the expansive space of the theatre and directing it toward insular, inscrutably private gestures.

The dialogue for *Sorcerer* was built from transcriptions of Ed and Steven hanging out together with their friends. *Sorcerer's* is a counterintuitive kind of realism, lying somewhere between the procedural and the miraculous. Magnifying a face or amplifying a couch brings the face or the couch into wild proximity via technological process. Gadgets (radiators, lighting, microphones, a mechanical squirming bed, etc.) are a way to access otherwise unavailable compassion. Or to facilitate voyeurism. Choreography is used to heighten or defamiliarise the banal in the bodies of the actors, in the same way as amplifying the couch pulls it nearer and pushes it further away at the same time. There's the intractability of reality — both its resistance to clear meaning and its hyperbolic closeness. There's levitation.

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LIST OF WORKS

*Sorcerer*

Ed Atkins and Steven Zultanski

2022

Video with sound

1 hour 20 approx.

*Script, direction, set design and editing*

Ed Atkins and Steven Zultanski

*Starring*

Lotte Andersen

Peter Christoffersen

Ida Cæcilie Rasmussen

*Choreographer*

Nønne Mai Svalholm

*Theme tune*

Lawrence Giffin & Steven Zultanski

*Lightning designer*

Karl Sørensen

*Builder*

Andrew Mathews

*Assistant director*

Pernille Hviid

*Master electrician*

Peter Lorichs

*Theatre Plumber*

Kenneth Kreutzfeldt

*Stage manager*

Anne Kirstine Pyndt

*Master carpenter*

Rasmus Rahbek

*Production assistant*

Emma Dybdahl Hildebrandt

*Head of costumes*

Kristina Widriksen

*Sound engineer*

Anders Munch Amdisen

*Production manager*

Svend Martin Holst

*Chief dramaturge and curator*

Rikke Hedeager

*Camera*

Martin Stampe, Niklas Frost,

Jeppe Rohde Nielsen

*With thanks to*

Signe Lausen, Anders Astrup Jensen, Rune Klan,

Hollis Pinky Atkins, Sally-Ginger Brockbank,

Ida Marie Hede, Henriette Heise, Chris Shields,

Finn Hagen Storgaard

*Bed*

Ed Atkins and Steven Zultanski

2022

Mechanism designed by Rasmus Rahbek

*Poster for Sorcerer*

Ed Atkins

2022

Acrylic and ink on photocopy

*Synchronous monitor for Sorcerer*

Ed Atkins and Steven Zultanski

2022

Silent video

1 hour 20 approx.